Amendment to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A medicine packing apparatus in which a packing sheet is printed with predetermined information by printing means, medicine is fed into the packing sheet by medicine feed means, and the packing sheet is sealed by seal means so as to pack the medicine in single packages, wherein:

the seal means is provided with a conveyance portion for conveying the packing sheet;

in the middle of a conveyance path from the print means to the seal means, there are provided moving means which comes into contact with the packing sheet and descends and ascends along a linear path so that the tension of the packing sheet is held at a constant value, and

position detecting means which detects a descending position of the moving means;

wherein the moving means comprises a roller, which is rotatable and movable, and urging means for urging the packing sheet with a constant force to eliminate slack in the packing sheet, and

wherein the printing means is operable in response to a detection of the descending position by the position detecting means during conveyance of the packing sheet by the conveyance portion.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the roller is a tension roller attached on a table which is movable in an upward direction and a

downward direction along a guide rail, the tension roller being operable to move the packing sheet in the upward direction; and wherein the urging means is a spring for urging the table in the upward direction.

4. (Previously Presented) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the position detecting means is operable to detect a lower position of the table.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A medicine packing apparatus comprising:

a sealing unit including a packing sheet conveyor for conveying a packing sheet along a packing sheet conveying path, wherein the sealing unit is operable to seal the packing sheet so as to form medicine packages;

a printing unit, disposed along the conveying path, for printing on the packing sheet, wherein the sealing unit is disposed along the conveying path downstream of the printing unit;

at least one medicine feeder for feeding medicine into the packing sheet;

a tension roller disposed along the conveying path between the printing unit and the sealing unit, wherein the tension roller is movable in an upward direction and a downward direction;

urging means for urging the tension roller in the upward direction to remove slack in the packing sheet; and

a position detector for detecting a predetermined position of the tension roller, the predetermined position corresponding to a desired tension in the packing sheet,

wherein a printing operation can be initiated when the position detector detects the predetermined position of the tension roller after the packing sheet conveyor begins conveying the packing sheet.

7. (Previously Presented) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the tension roller is connected to a table which is movably supported on vertical guide rails.

8. (Previously Presented) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the urging means comprises a spring, and the position detector comprises a sensor for sensing the position of the table.

9. (Previously Presented) The medicine packing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein operation of the packing sheet conveyor creates tension in the packing sheet which in turn causes the tension roller and table to move in the downward direction to the predetermined position.